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#9



EXHIBIT "A"

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 14114.0344U2
PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Khudyakov et al.

Serial No. 09/491,146

Filed: January 25, 2000

For: MOSAIC PROTEIN AND RESTRICTION
ENDONUCLEASE ASSISTED LIGATION
METHOD FOR MAKING THE SAME

Group Art Unit: 1642

Examiner: Brumback, B.

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

JAN 17 2002

RECEIVED

DECLARATION OF YURI E. KHUDYAKOV
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.
Suite 1200
The Candler Building
127 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1811

December 7, 2001

Sir:

I, Yury E. Khudyakov, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at 4354

Tremont Court, Duluth, GA 30096, declare that:

1. I am a co-inventor with Howard A. Fields of the above-referenced patent application and of the subject matter described and claimed therein.

2. I am co-author of abstract #V-54 by B. Ruedinger, Y.E. Khyudakov, C. Chang,

Considered
3-15-02
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H.A. Fields entitled "An Artificial Mosaic Protein for the Detection of Antibodies Against hepatitis C virus" (Abstracts of the 97th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, May 4-8, 1997).

3. During the period of time in which the research described in the Ruedinger et al. reference was conducted, Birgit Ruedinger, Ph.D. was a postdoctoral associate at the National Center for Infectious Diseases. She conducted experiments, designed by the co-inventors, under my supervision to produce and characterize the core protein described in the abstract "An Artificial Mosaic Protein for the Detection of Antibodies Against hepatitis C virus." She had no role in the conception of the claimed invention. Therefore, she was included as a co-author on the Ruedinger et al. abstract, but was not named as an inventor of the present invention.

4. During the period of time in which the research described in the Ruedinger et al. reference was conducted, Chih-Wei Chang, Ph.D. was employed at the National Center for Infectious Diseases. She conducted experiments, designed by the co-inventors, under my supervision to produce and characterize the core protein described in Ruedinger et al. She had no role in the conception of the claimed invention. Therefore, she was included as a co-author on the Ruedinger et al. abstract, but was not named as an inventor of the present invention.

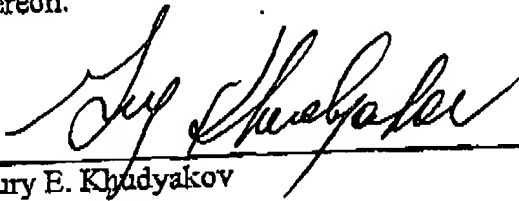
5. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge is true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable

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by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that any such false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.


Yury E. Khudyakov

12-7-01
DATE